What is claimed is:

1. A method for improving the accuracy of monetary charges to payors in a transaction, comprising the steps of:

a) collecting census data from at least one first source by means of an electronic communications network;

b) collecting transaction data from at least one second source by means of the electronic communications network;

c) correlating the census data and the transaction data with existing payor contract data to form a related dataset;

d) validating the dataset for accuracy; and

e) allocating monetary charges to at least one payor based on the dataset.

2. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of enabling at least one of the first and second source, by means of the electronic communications network, to:

a) access the dataset and the allocated charges;

b) compare the allocated charges with records maintained by the accessing source; and

c) reconcile discrepancies between the first and second sources regarding the charges.

3. A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of protecting the census data, the transaction data and the dataset from unauthorized access.

4. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of protecting the data and the dataset from unauthorized alteration.

5. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of generating reports from the dataset.

6. A method according to claim 5, further comprising the step of compiling the dataset into predetermined report formats.

7. A method according to claim 5, further comprising the step of distributing the reports to predetermined users.

8. A method according to claim 7 wherein the reports are distributed via the electronic communications network.

9. A method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of classifying the dataset and reports into predetermined access levels for controlling the extent of access to the dataset and reports by the predetermined users.

10. A method according to claim 5, further comprising the step of protecting the reports from unauthorized access.

11. A method according to claim 5, wherein patient-identifying information has been removed from the dataset.

12. A method for improving the accuracy of monetary charges to payors in a transaction, comprising the steps of:

a) collecting census data from at least one first source by means of an electronic communications network;

b) collecting transaction data from at least one second source by means of the electronic communications network;

c) correlating the census data and the transaction data with existing payor contract data to form a related dataset;

d) validating the dataset for accuracy;

e) allocating monetary charges to at least one payor based on the dataset;

f) enabling at least one of the first and second sources, by means of the electronic communications network, to:

i) access the dataset and the allocated charges,

ii) compare the charges with records maintained by the source, and

iii) reconcile discrepancies between the first and second sources regarding the charges; and

g) generating reports from the dataset.

13. A method according to claim 1 wherein the first source further comprises a hierarchy of individual facilities, facility groups comprising a plurality of individual facilities, and corporate oversight of the facilities and groups of facilities.

14. A method according to claim 1 wherein the second source further comprises a hierarchy of individual pharmacies, pharmacy groups comprising a plurality of individual pharmacies, and corporate oversight of the pharmacies and groups of pharmacies.

15. A method according to claim 1 wherein the electronic communications network is used to transmit and receive messages between the first source, the second source, and a processing center.

16. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

   a) conducting logical queries using the dataset; and

   b) analyzing the results of the logical queries.

17. A method according to claim 5 wherein the reports relate to the business performance of pharmacies and groups of pharmacies.

18. A method according to claim 5 wherein the reports relate to the business performance of facilities and groups of facilities.

19. A method according to claim 15, further comprising the steps of:

   a) conducting a survey via the electronic communications network;

b) obtaining responses to the survey via the electronic communications network; and

c) taking corrective action to resolve problems identified by the survey.

20. A method according to claim 15, further comprising the steps of transmitting and receiving communications between the first source and the second source regarding interest in particular new products and the performance of current products.

21. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

a) generating reports from the dataset;

b) distributing the reports to predetermined users via the electronic communications network;

c) classifying the dataset and reports into predetermined access levels for controlling the extent of access to the dataset and reports by the predetermined users;

d) protecting the reports from unauthorized access; and

e) removing patient-identifying information from the dataset.